

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 /080 W
-----117671 062052Z /64

R 061055Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8509
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 7632

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PK
SUBJ: BHUTTO'S HEALTH SATISFACTORY

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 7543

1. A CONTROVERSY OVER THE STATE OF FORMER PM BHUTTO'S HEALTH AROSE LAST WEEK IN THE APPEAL HEARING WHEN BHUTTO'S ATTORNEY YAHYA BAKHTIAR STATED THAT BHUTTO NEEDED MEDICAL ATTENTION (REFTEL).

2. BHUTTO WAS THEN EXAMINED BY A MEDICAL BOARD CONSISTING OF HIS PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, DR. MOHAMMAD IQBAL, DR. HAFIZ AKHTAR OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND TWO PRISON DOCTORS. HIS GENERAL CONDITION WAS DESCRIBED AS SATISFACTORY BUT ADDITIONAL TESTS WERE ORDERED. AFTER HEARING THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION CHIEF JUSTICE ANWARUL HAQ OBSERVED THE COURT WAS CONCERNED THAT THE APPELLANT WOULD RECEIVE THE PROPER TREATMENT. THE MEDICAL BOARD PRESCRIBED TREATMENT FOR BHUTTO'S GUMS.

3. COMMENT: IN ANSWERING BAKHTIAR'S INITIAL REQUEST, THE
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PROSECUTION STATED IN COURT THAT BHUTTO HAD REFUSED TO BE EXAMINED BY PRISON DOCTORS OR A SPECIALIST FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL. BY ALLOWING HIM TO BE EXAMINED BY HIS PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, THE COURT HAS ONCE AGAIN BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO AVOID CHARGES OF DENYING BHUTTO ADEQUATE TREATMENT. END COMMENT.
HUMMEL

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NNN

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